



MERGA BIEN

Triptych

Magical triptych

The three small frames are surprisingly easy to make. You knit a 30 x 30 cm square in stockinette stitch. Then, you crochet a border all around with single crochet stitches. The bindrunes are sewn onto the knitting last. The whole thing fits nicely around the canvas frame.

The triptych is a beautiful gift for yourself or someone else. Thanks to the magical power of the bindrunes, you also bestow courage, strength, and love.

YARN

DROPS AIR

65% alpaca, 28% polyamide, 7% wol

50 g = 150 m

34 pink marble 70 g

30 sage green 70 g

03 pearl grey 70 g

06 anthracite, a good amount

DROPS AIR is a light and airy yarn that feels wonderfully soft against your skin. The 'blow yarn' is made from soft baby alpaca and warm merino wool and features a beautiful color palette.

SET OF 3 CANVAS

white canvas on wood 30 x 30 cm

NEEDLES

Knitting needles 4.5

Crochet hook 4

STITCH RATIO

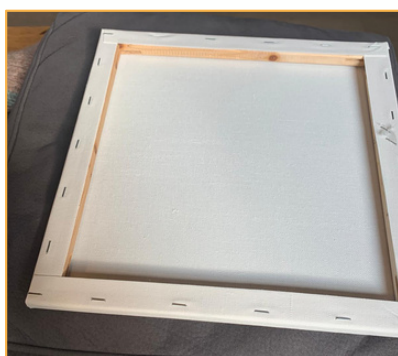
18 stitches x 26 rows with 4.5 mm needles
= 10 cm

DIMENSIONS

Width 30 cm

Height 30 cm

DIFFICULTY LEVEL



METHOD



1

KNIT

Cast on 56 stitches using your favorite method. Knit 80 rows in stockinette stitch and bind off loosely.

2

CROCHET

Round 1: crochet 40 single stitches per side

Round 2: crochet the last and first single stitch of each side together and skip the corner stitch

Round 3: same as round 2

Round 4: same as round 2 + decrease 3 single stitches per side evenly

Round 5: same as round 2

Round 6: same as round 2

Fasten off the thread.



3

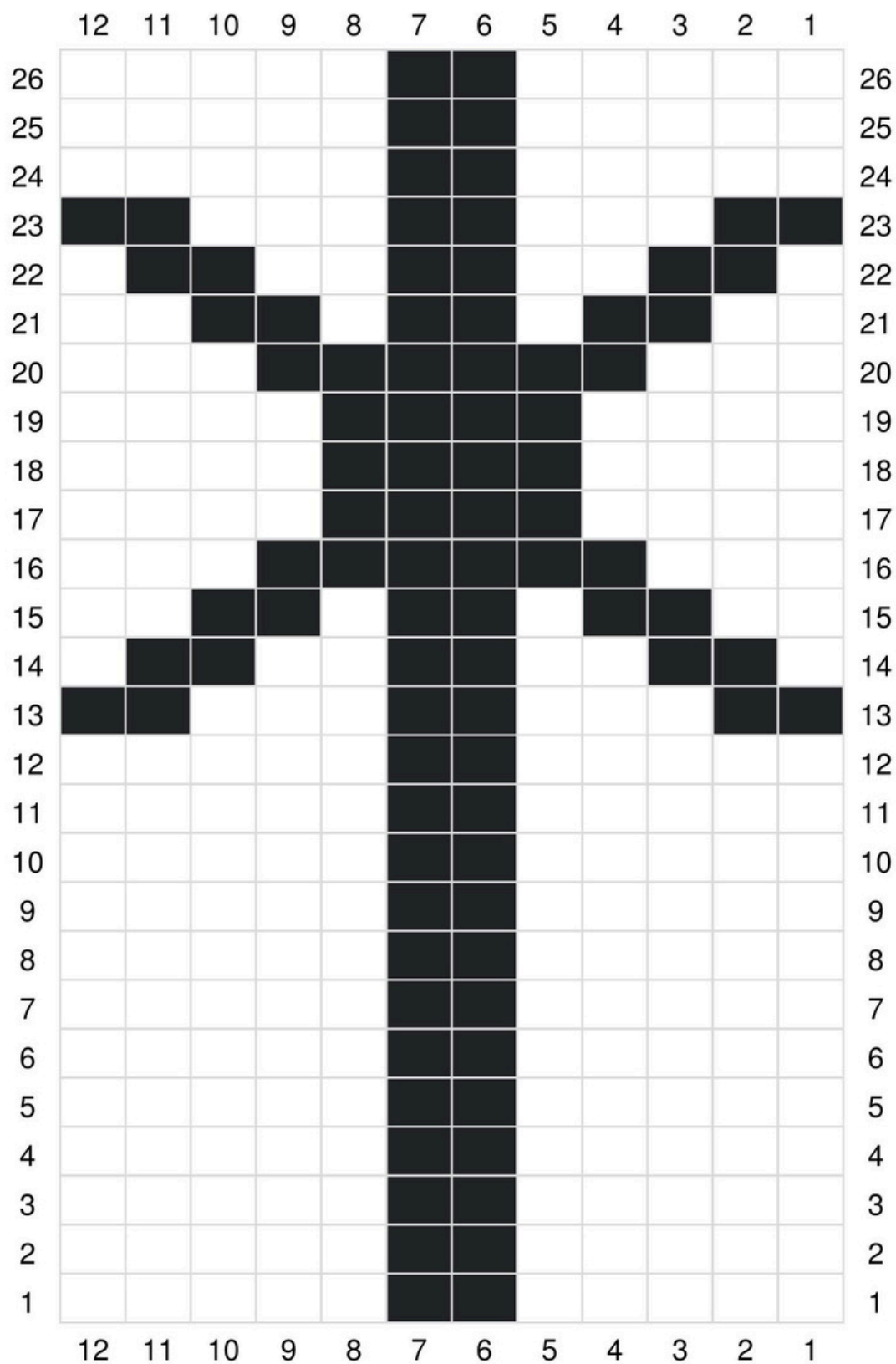
MESH

Determine the middle 2 stitches of the knitting. Count where to start and begin following the chart.

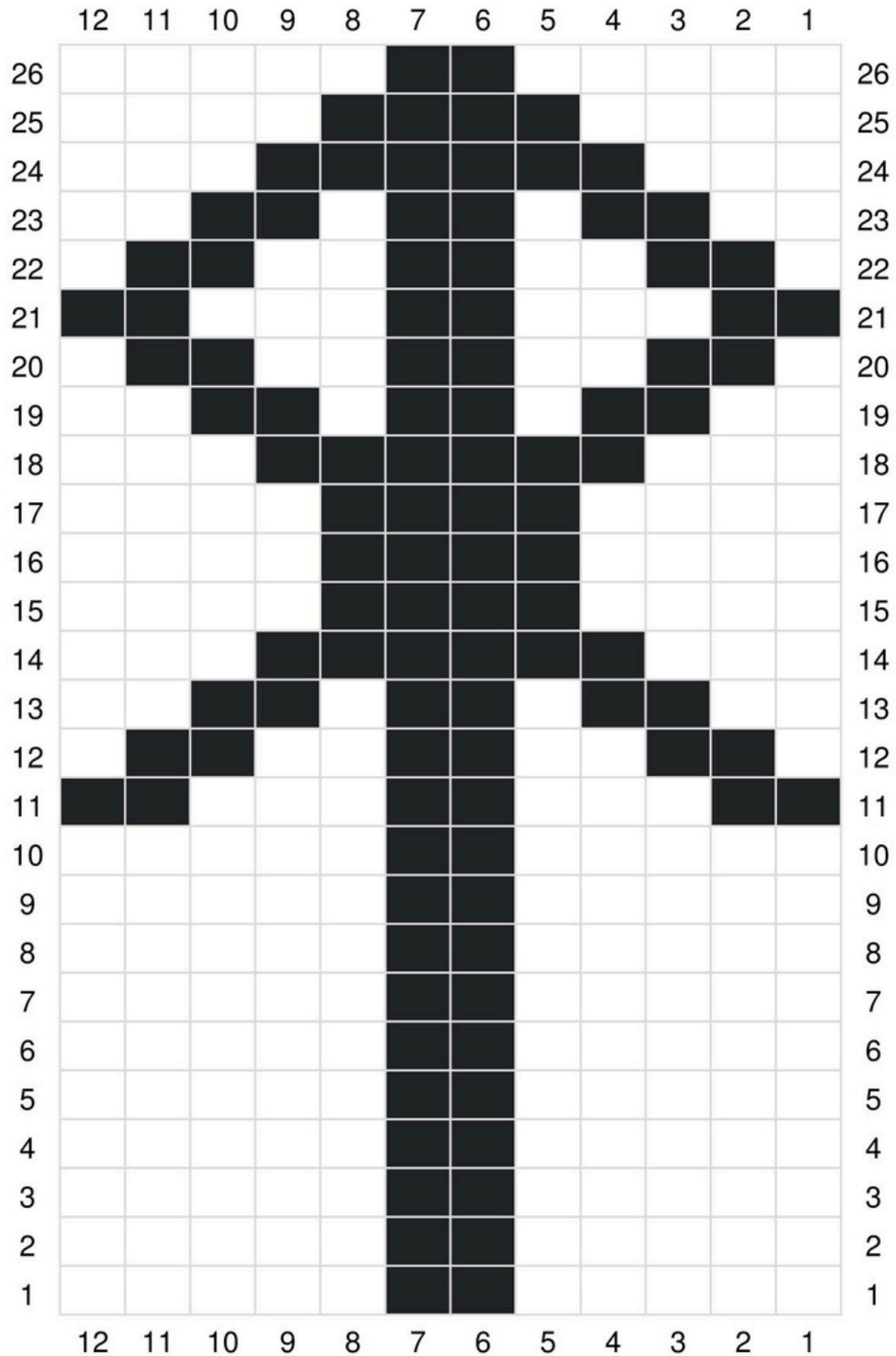
Stretch the needlework neatly around the small frame.



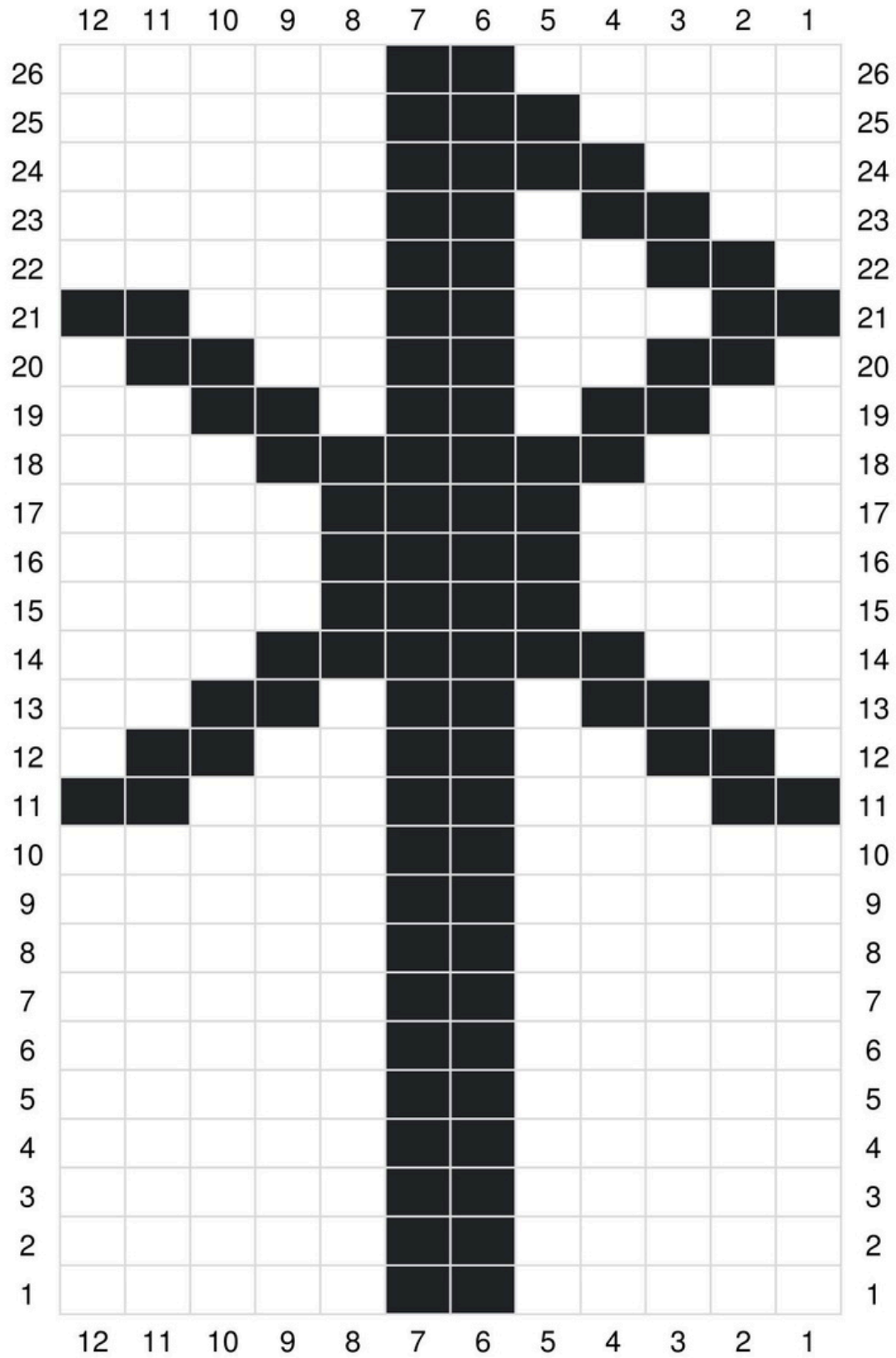
power



courage



love



RUNES



Magical signs

Rune is an ancient Germanic language. Besides 'letter', the word rune also means 'secret' and 'whispering'. The runes were used as an alphabet, but also formed a magical system with predictive powers. Runes were associated with daily life, but also with the supernatural. They were used by seeresses and other initiates to perform evil and good magic.

Combined in bindrunes, the symbols gain even more magic. In the triptych for Merga, I combine the runes for courage, strength, and love.

Tribute to thousands of 'witches'

The triptych for Merga Bien is part of MICCA, a collection that pays tribute to the many victims of the witch trials. In Europe alone, more than 100,000 alleged witches died at the stake. Mostly women, but also men and even children.

The murder of Merga Bien

Merga was pregnant when she was accused of witchcraft on June 19, 1603. Immediately after her arrest, her husband, Blasius Bien, declared that she was pregnant. By doing so, he attempted to use legal remedies to limit her imprisonment and possibly the execution of the sentence. After all, in many jurisdictions, the procedure of “pleading the belly” existed: for a pregnant woman, the death penalty was usually postponed until after the birth.

In captivity, Merga faced serious accusations, was subjected to torture, and forced to make confessions. Merga Bien was convicted of witchcraft. In the autumn of 1603, she was burned at the stake in Fulda.

The Fulda Witch Trials took place in the Principality of Fulda (Germany) between 1603 and 1606. During that period, at least 200-250 people were convicted and executed for witchcraft. The bindrunes for courage, strength, and love protect Merga and the unborn child against all evil in the world.

Do you want to read the whole story about Merga?
Then check out my website www.micca-witchcraft.be



Threads of love

MICCA weaves the history of all victims into timeless creations made of thread. Every stitch is part of the chain that connects us across generations. You can find my designs on my Ravelry page Micca-witchcraft and also on my website www.micca-witchcraft.be.

Do you want to know more about the witch persecution? You can download my free e-book via my website, in which I portray the cruel reality of the witch craze in an original way.



Colophon

Design, photos, and text are by Mieke Van Damme.

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Micca witchcraft



Miekemicca



Micca-witchcraft